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Math Growth: 50% of New Jersey’s Top 10 Highest Performing Districts Are Public Charters, Though Charters Serve Less Than 5% of the State’s Students

21 Public Charter Schools “Exceed Standards” on Student Growth Demonstrating Faster Recovery From Academic Pandemic Losses Compared To Rest of State

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY - April 8, 2024 – Last week, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) released annual [School Performance Reports](#), which includes assessment, student growth, and accountability data for all public school districts in New Jersey. When evaluating student growth in mathematics, 5 of the top 10 highest performing districts are public charter schools, despite charter schools serving less than 5% of the entire public school population in New Jersey. In English language arts (ELA), 2 of the top 10 highest performing districts are public charters. Particularly noteworthy, College Achieve Paterson Charter School (CAPS Paterson), where 93% of students come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, ranks top 10 in the state for both Math and ELA growth.

Charters Among Top 10 Districts Overall In Math and/or ELA Growth (mSGP)	State Percentile Rank
Pride Academy Charter School (East Orange)	99th
Ridge and Valley Charter School (Blairstown)	99th
Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School (Somerset)	99th
Princeton Charter School (Princeton)	99th
Hatikvah International Academy Charter School (East Brunswick)	98th
College Achieve Paterson Charter School (Paterson)	98th

Student growth, as measured by median student growth percentiles (mSGP), takes into account academic starting points for individual students against their statewide academic peers. This data calculates growth year-over-year and is an important way to evaluate how schools are accelerating academic achievement gains at the student level in math and ELA.

The released data shows that 21 public charter schools “exceed standards” on student growth set by NJDOE’s accountability framework, ranking in the top 15% of districts statewide. Public charter schools are accelerating learning for students faster than their statewide peers in under-resourced communities like Paterson, Newark, East Orange, Plainfield, Jersey City, Asbury Park, Perth Amboy.



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21 Charters “Exceed Standards” for Math and/or ELA Growth (mSGP) (Top 15% of Districts Statewide)	
Charter School	District(s)
Atlantic Community Charter School	Atlantic City
Central Jersey College Prep Charter School	Franklin, New Brunswick
College Achieve Paterson Charter School	Paterson
Community Charter School of Paterson	Paterson
Discovery Charter School	Newark
East Orange Community Charter School	East Orange
Elysian Charter School	Hoboken
Gray Charter School	Newark
Hatikvah International Academy Charter School	East Brunswick
Hoboken Charter School District	Hoboken
Hoboken Dual Language Charter School	Hoboken
Hope Academy Charter School	Asbury Park
Link Community Charter School	Newark, Orange, East Orange, Irvington
Middlesex County STEM Charter School	Perth Amboy
Pride Academy Charter School District	East Orange
Princeton Charter School	Princeton
Ridge and Valley Charter School	Blairstown
Robert Treat Academy Charter School	Newark
Soaring Heights Charter School	Jersey City
The Queen City Academy Charter School District	Plainfield
Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School	Somerset

"We celebrate these incredible results and recognize the tireless work that our public charter school educators and students continue to put in everyday to recover from the effects of pandemic learning loss," **said Harry Lee, President and CEO of the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association.** "The unique nature of public charter schools allows them to pivot quickly to meet the needs of individual learners and accelerate student learning. Public charters continue to lead the way in New Jersey and we could not be more proud of these achievements."

"We believe in the brilliance of every child that walks through our doors. Every day, we meet each other and every student where they are, ensuring academic growth and holistic support," **said Dr. Gemar Mills, Executive Director at CAPS Paterson.** "I was born and raised in Paterson and understand the challenges our scholars face. These results show that when caring,



motivated educators work with students and families, we will achieve and soar together - from high school to the top colleges and universities and beyond."

These most recent assessment results continue to add [overwhelming evidence](#) that public charter schools are working for students and families in the Garden State. Black and Latino students enrolled in New Jersey's public charter schools outperform Black and Latino students in their comparative districts by 17 points in English language arts ELA and 10 points in mathematics on the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment. The data confirms that public charter schools continue to make significant student achievement gains for students of color in under-resourced communities throughout New Jersey.

About the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association (NJPCSA)

The NJPCSA is a non-profit membership association representing the state's public charter school community, dedicated to advancing quality public education for New Jersey's children through the cultivation of excellent public charter schools. With 85 public charter schools serving 62,000 students, NJPCSA seeks to influence legislative and policy environments, leverage collective advocacy, and provide resources to support high-quality, public charter schools.

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